

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 07187 261648Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2727

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 7187

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG

SUBJECT: U.S. ARMS FOR EGYPT

REF JIDDA 6951

1. PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR ISA SABBAGH TODAY (OCT 26) THAT HE HAD READ WITH SOME AMAZEMENT RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO SELL ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT U.S. ELECTIONS. HE SAID HE ASSUMED THESE REPORTS WERE NOT RPT NOT TRUE. AS THE AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR SABBAGH WELL KNEW SULTAN SAID, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND THE U.S. HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THESE SALES FOR 18 MONTHS--AND IN GREAT DETAIL. HE ASSUMED THEY WOULD GO FORWARD SOON.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD READ THE NEWS STORIES BUT COULD NOT RPT NOT SAY WHETHER THEY WERE TRUE OR EVEN BASED ON FACT.

3. SULTAN SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD GO THROUGH WITH THE SALES. IF IT DOES NOT, SAUDI ARABIA WILL HAVE NO RPT NO CHOICE BUT TU SUPPORT EGYPT "NO MATTER WHERE IT TURNS." HE SAID HE WAS SURE WE ALSO REALIZED THAT SADAT'S POSITION IN HIS OWN COUNTRY WOULD BE SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED BY OUR REFUSAL TO SUPPLY EGYPT ARMS NOW.

AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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